False Oswald
Donnels, Joseph Leroy
Mistaken identities

12/22/68
Harold Weisberg

The Commission's files abound in identifications of Oswald when the genuine article was not likely the man seen. In New Orleans, this is often in the reports of FBI agents not active in the investigation. There is always the possibility of mistaken identifications.

What cannot be overlooked, however, is the possibility that some of these cases may have been the spotting of look-alikes one or more of whom may have been engaged in counterfeiting Oswald.

The man reported in CD 75:474 by Donnels was in the right area to have been counterfeiting Oswald. It is close to that part of the French Quarter where the real one lived, where he was often on his return to New Orleans, and the places he selected for his handbill distributions.

This description of "Oswald" does not really fit the real one, who was not usually unpleasant with people. It is not inconsistent with the character of Thornley, for example, nor with what Loren L. Butler reported (CD 75: 697).

As usual, the FBI fails to report significant information, such as the time of the day, physical description, dress, whether or not alone, etc.